



The Faithful Steward

A Texico Conference Stewardship Publication

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Thankfulness & The Circle of Giving

David Freedman, Treasurer

I am thankful today. I am thankful to God for the ability to work. I appreciate the opportunity to 'earn a living'; which means, my wife and I make enough money to provide for our family. We don't have everything we want (which is probably good), but we do have everything we need.

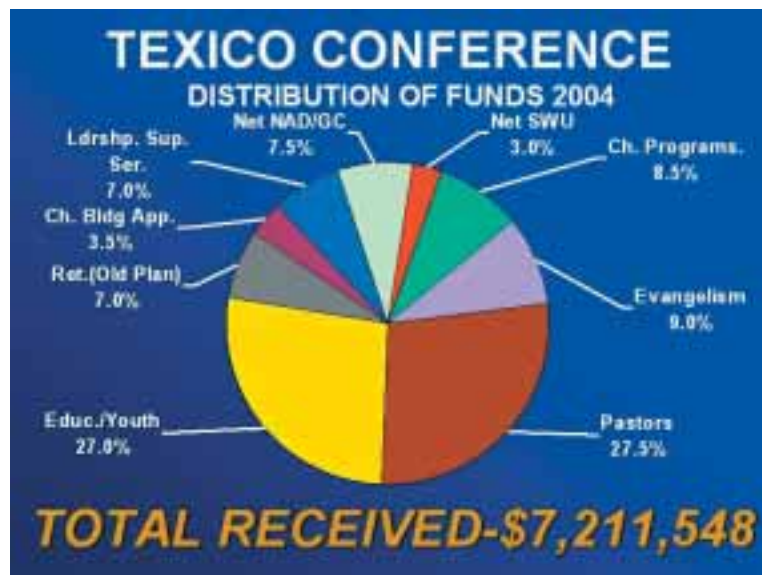
My wife and I not only provide for our immediate family, but also our church family. It is a tremendous privilege to give tithe and offerings to our church.

In 2004, we (our entire Texico Conference church family) gave because we love Jesus and we love those for whom He died. Therefore, we love to support the greatest work known to man -- the preaching of the everlasting gospel.

In 2004, we were very faithful! We generously provided for our church as follows:

Tithe	\$5,162,551
World Missions	\$213,419
Texico Ministries	\$81,474
Building Texico for God offering	\$350,358

In addition to the 5.8 million dollars just mentioned, we gave hundreds of thousands more to run our local church (approximately \$780,000 was given to make payments on our church/school mortgages).



In 2004, our total distribution of funds, both tithe and non-tithe, was as follows: 27.5% was for the pastor's salary and all related benefits; 27% was for our educational system and all youth related activities; 7.5% was forwarded to the North American Division (NAD) and the General Conference (GC); 8.5% was for all departments and programs, except our education and youth departments (i.e. trust, children's ministry, communication, stewardship departments, etc.); 7% was for leadership support; 9% was for evangelism and other church growth activities; 7% was for the old Defined Benefit Retirement Plan; 3.5% was for church building appropriations; and 3% was forwarded to the Southwestern Union. As you can see, when we are faithful in the giving of our tithe and offerings, we help support the local, conference, union, division and worldwide work of the Seventh-day Church.



"All that is given for the salvation of souls and the glory of God, is invested in the most successful enterprise in this life and in the life to come."

COS, pg. 342

"In giving to the work of God, you are laying up for yourselves treasures in heaven. All that you lay up above is secure from disaster and loss, and is increasing to an eternal, an enduring substance."

COS, pg. 342

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Circle of Giving

We are participating in what I call the 'circle of giving'.

God gives us everything. Everything comes from God. As we receive His blessings we, in turn, give to His church financially through our tithe and offerings. These funds are then collected and distributed to minister to our local communities. From our evangelistic activities, many individuals have an opportunity to hear and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord



and Saviour. As they join our church, they now have the opportunity to participate in the giving of tithe and offerings and they join us in support of the Lord's work, thus the cycle starts again.

The 'circle of giving' continues

We can all participate in the 'circle of giving'.

“From generation to generation...”

from generation to generation. Let me illustrate. One day I received an evangelistic brochure in the mail. As a result, I

faithfully attended a full six-week series of evangelistic meetings and I was baptized in the spring of 1978. My point is this: I received an evangelistic brochure that was paid for; I walked into a church that others paid for, the

church had lights on and running water that others paid for; and I heard the message from a paid ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister.

Others who were faithful in the giving of their

tithes and offerings made it possible for me to hear the everlasting gospel and to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. They gave thousands of dollars, but to me it was priceless!

The pictures you see are people celebrating a new life in Jesus Christ. They had the opportunity to hear the gospel because of you; because you were faithful in the giving of your tithe and of-



offerings.

But, these could be pictures of you and your family. Think back to how you heard the gospel message. Others were faithfully giving of their tithe and offerings so you could hear the "good news"! You see, we are all part of the 'circle of giving'. What a rich legacy to participate in and to pass on to our children. 🌐

